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BABYLON

IN VALEN'S NAME

PART TWO OF THREE

BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI,
PETER DAVID, MICHAEL COLLINS
AND DAVID ROACH



OBI

BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES **BABYLON** CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

RAMDE
HAXTUR... A
PROBLEM HAS ARISEN
THAT MAY REQUIRE
OUR ABANDONING OUR
CURRENT SALVAGE
MISSION OF THE
PIKSEL SHIP.

WHAT
SORT OF
PROBLEM?

5 AUTO TRANSLATION
OF TAI'CHA ENGAGED

WE
HAVE LOST
CONTACT WITH THE
TEAM WE LEFT BEHIND
ON ENDE X'TON...
ON THE LOST
STATION.

BUT THEIR
LAST REPORTS
STATED THEY MET WITH...
INTERFERENCE.

WHAT SORT OF...
"INTERFERENCE"?

UNCERTAIN
AT THIS TIME. BUT
FROM PRELIMINARY
REPORTS...

WE
FEAR THEY
ENCOUNTERED
SAVAGES... AND
THAT OUR
PEOPLE ARE
LOST.

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BLAST
IT.

THE
CAPACITY
FOR VIOLENCE
IN THIS GALAXY
NEVER FAILS
TO AMAZE
ME.

BY ALL
MEANS, WE MUST
PRIORITIZE. IF OUR
TEAM IS TRULY LOST,
WE CANNOT LET
THEIR KILLERS
GET AWAY.

RECALL
OUR SALVAGE
TEAM IMMEDIATELY,
AND SET COURSE
FOR THE LOST
STATION.

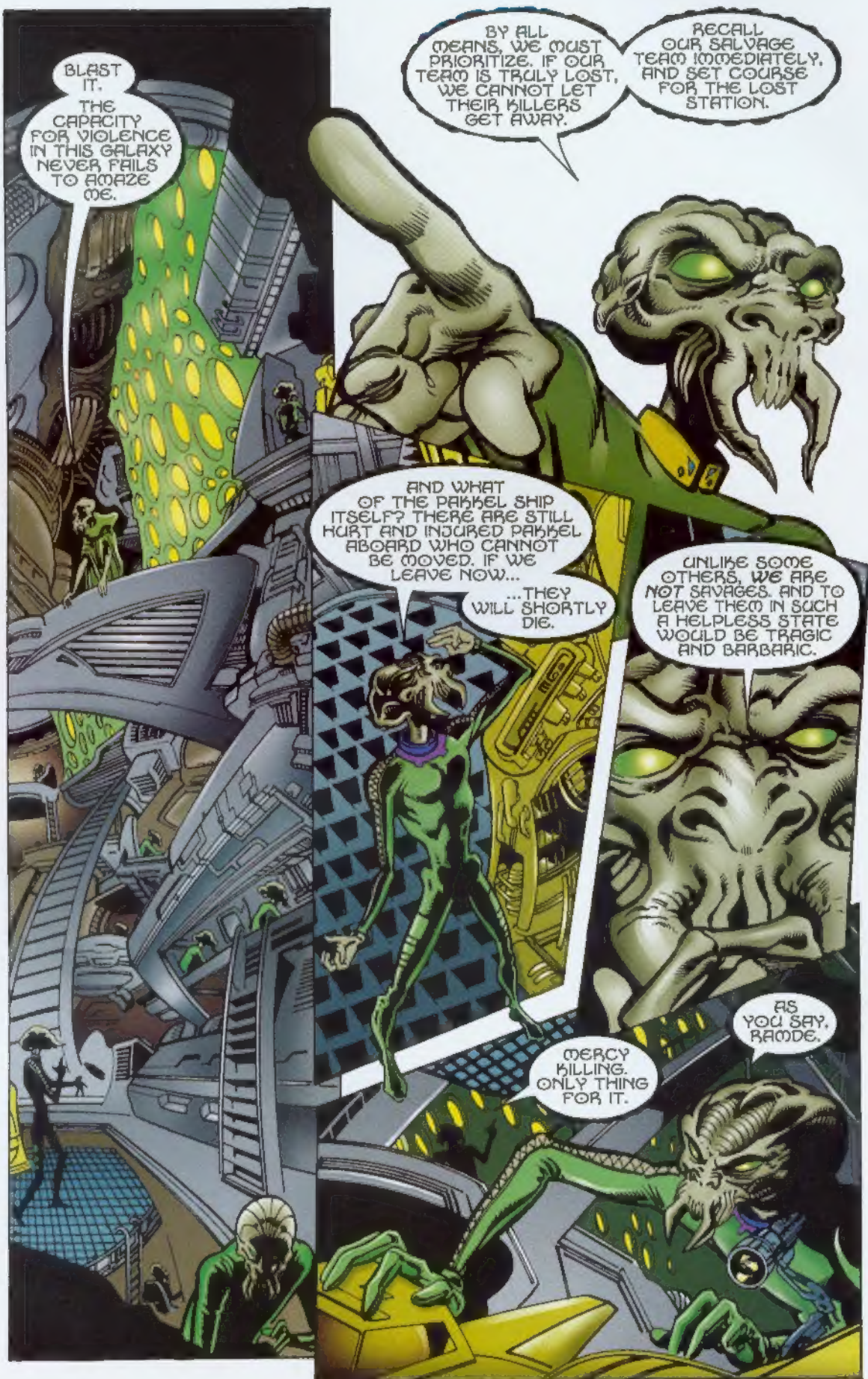
AND WHAT
OF THE PAKHEL SHIP
ITSELF? THERE ARE STILL
HURT AND INJURED PAKHEL
ABOARD WHO CANNOT
BE MOVED. IF WE
LEAVE NOW...

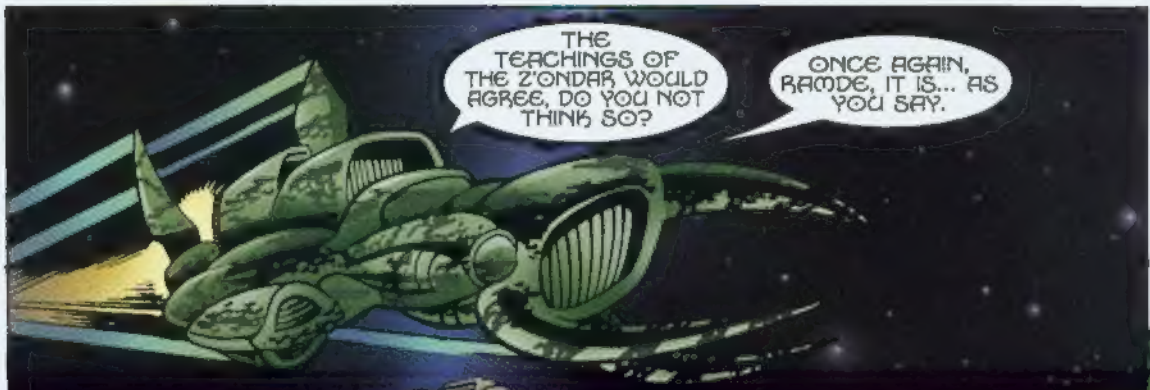
...THEY
WILL SHORTLY
DIE.

UNLIKE SOME
OTHERS, WE ARE
NOT SAVAGES. AND TO
LEAVE THEM IN SUCH
A HELPLESS STATE
WOULD BE TRAGIC
AND BARBARIC.

AS
YOU SAY,
RAMDE.

MERCY
KILLING.
ONLY THING
FOR IT.





THE
TEACHINGS OF
THE Z'ONDAR, WOULD
AGREE, DO YOU NOT
THINK SO?

ONCE AGAIN,
RAMDE, IT IS... AS
YOU SAY.



COMPASSION IS
THE GREATEST GIFT
THAT ONE CAN GIVE.
NEVER FORGET
THAT.

NEVER,
RAMDE.
NEVER.

NOW...
LET'S TEACH
THOSE SAVAGES
A LESSON.

IN VALEN'S NAME

BOOK TWO

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3A3COM

IVANOVA

BOOM TODAY, BOOM
TOMORROW.

THE SILENCE IS SURPRISING. AS WE GO UP IN
FLAMES, HITTING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE,
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE
MORE NOISE THAN THAT. SCREAMS OF THE
DYING, AND THE SOUNDS OF METAL TWISTING,
THE HULL RUPTURING...

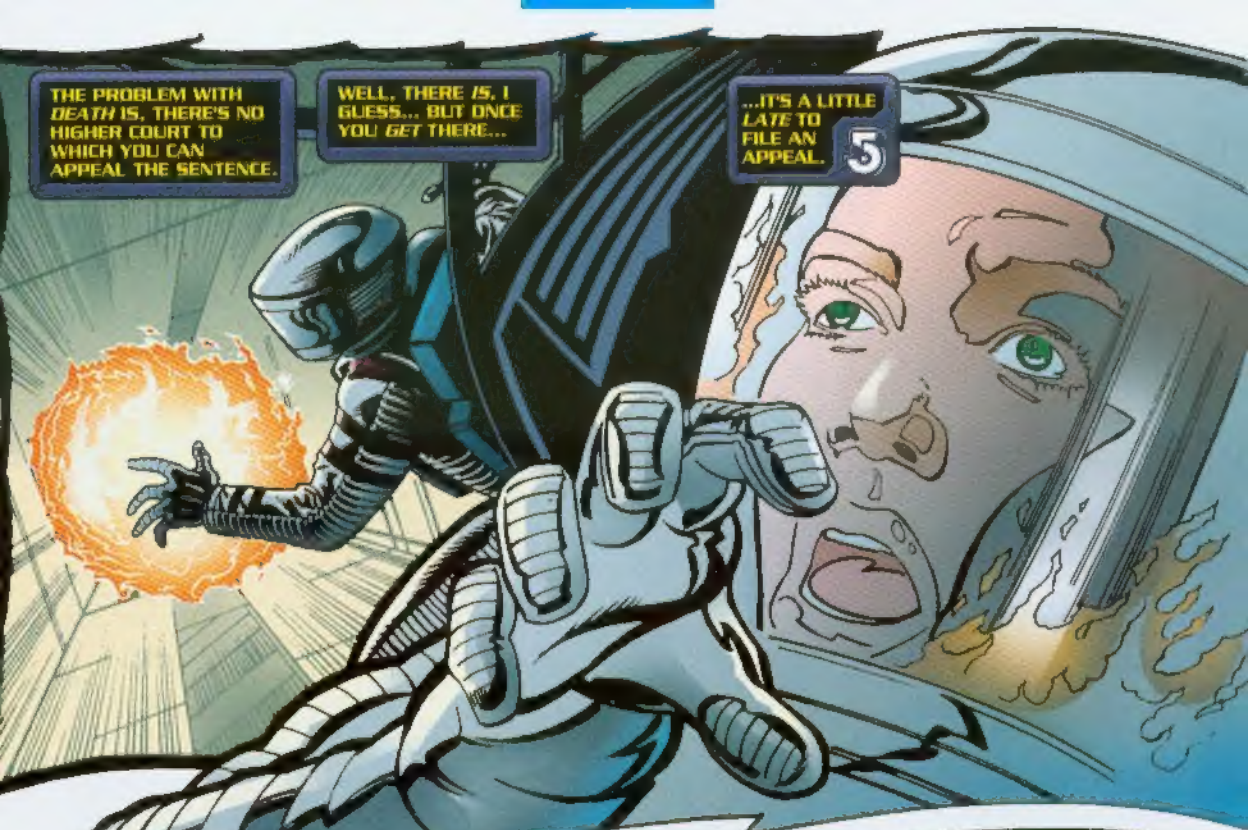
BUT IT'S ALL SO QUIET. LIKE OUR
DEATHS MEAN NOTHING, BUT
SHOULD INSTEAD BE
UNREMARKED UPON, WITHOUT
SO MUCH AS EVEN A SOUND.

THE PROBLEM WITH DEATH IS, THERE'S NO HIGHER COURT TO WHICH YOU CAN APPEAL THE SENTENCE.

WELL, THERE *IS*, I GUESS... BUT ONCE YOU GET THERE...

...IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO FILE AN APPEAL.

5



COMMANDER?

HUNNH?!

SUSAN, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M... FINE, YES, THANKS. I WAS JUST DOZING A MOMENT...

WOULD YOU RATHER BE PANICKING?

DOZING? WE'RE ON A SPACE STATION THAT'S GOING TO CRASH IN LESS THAN TWENTY HOURS, AND I'M CATCHING FORTY WINKS?

NO, I'D RATHER BE IN THE BAHAMAS. BUT SINCE I'M HERE, I'D LIKE TO AT LEAST STAY A LITTLE FOCUSED. YOU'D THINK I'D BE USED TO FUNCTIONING ON NO SLEEP.





WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY ARE YOU CHECKING MY WRIST READOUT?

BECAUSE I WANT TO VERIFY SOMETHING, AND YOU MIGHT BE TOO WOOLY TO...



UH-HUH. THE MIX ON YOUR REBREATHING UNIT IS OFF. YOU'RE GETTING A BUILD-UP OF CARBON DIOXIDE. I THINK I'VE GOT IT ADJUSTED, THOUGH.

OH, TERRIFIC. I'M LUCKY I WOKE UP AT ALL.



SO... WHAT DID I MISS?

NOTHING MAJOR SO FAR. NO WORD FROM BABYLON 5 REGARDING RESCUE...

WE'RE STILL SPIRALLING DOWN TOWARDS THAT PLANET. THERE'S NO POWER ANYWHERE IN THE STATION... I JUST CAME BACK FROM SCOUTING AROUND, AND GARIBALDI IS SEEING WHAT HE CAN TURN UP THAT MIGHT HELP...



AND DELENN IS... OTHERWISE INVOLVED.

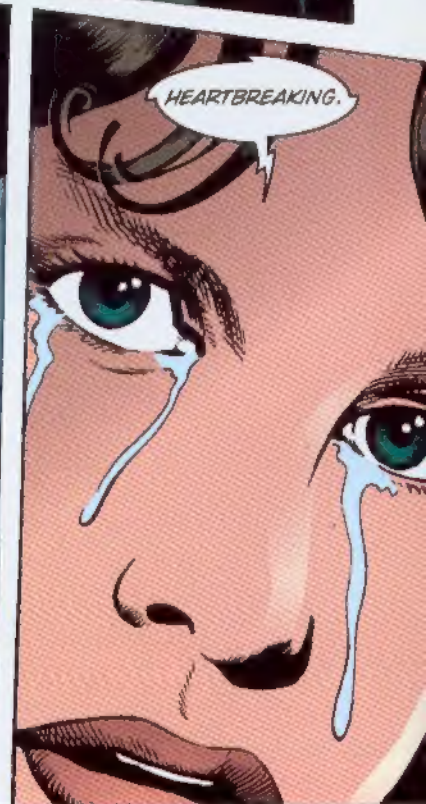


DELENN... YOU'VE BEEN STUDYING THOSE FOR HOURS. DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A...




...BREAK?


DELENN... WHAT IS IT?



HEARTBREAKING.



"MY SON
DIED TODAY.
ZATHRAS, THE
FOLLOWER
OF VALEN,
TOLD ME.




"MY SON, TULAN,
WHO FOLLOWED
VALEN UPON THE
CREATION OF THE
ANLA 'SHOK.


"HE SAID
HE DIED...
BRAVELY.

"AND I IMAGINE THAT I
SHOULD TAKE SOLACE...
IN THE TEACHINGS...
AND REJOICE IN THE
LIBERATION OF HIS
SOUL AND INEVITABLE
SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

"BUT WHEN I
CLOSE MY EYES...
I CAN...




"I CAN ALMOST
HEAR HIM.



"HE WAS A GENTLE
SOUL. A SPIRITUAL
SOUL. RAISED TO BE
A SCHOLAR, NOT A
WARRIOR.

"BUT THE WORDS
OF VALEN 'INSPIRED'
HIM... DROVE HIM TO
PLACE THE ANLA 'SHOK
ABOVE HIS CASTE...



"...DROVE
HIM TO FACE
THE ENEMY...

"BRAVELY
SO SAID
ZATHRAS.

"BUT ZATHRAS
SAYS MUCH. HE
FILLS THE AIR
WITH WORDS.

"AND PERHAPS
NOT ALL THE
WORDS...
ARE TRUE.

"MY GENTLE
SON, REMAKING
HIMSELF...

"FOR THE
SAKE OF
VALEN...

"FOR THE NAME OF
VALEN. VALEN, IN
WHOSE NAME I
CRAFTED THE WINDOW,
WITH A CARE EQUAL
TO THAT WITH WHICH
I CRAFTED THE
LIFE...

"...THE LIFE
OF MY SON."



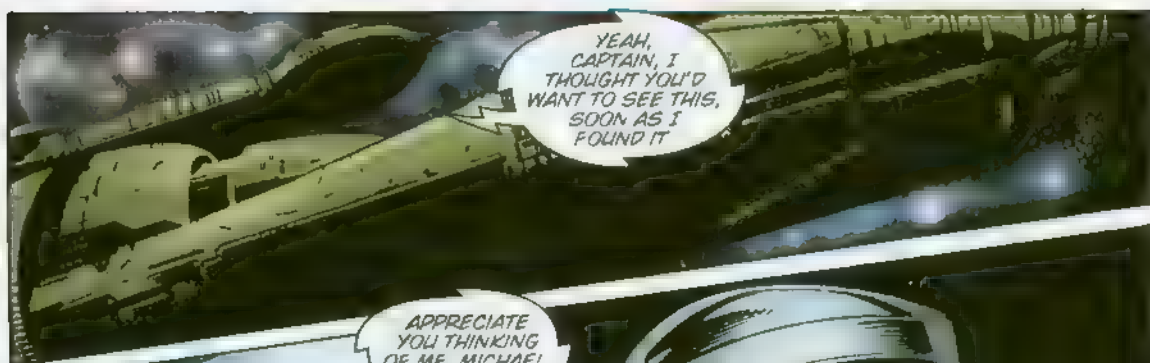
DAMN
VALEN! DAMN
THEM ALL! AND DAMN
ME FOR LETTING IT
HAPPEN!



LET THE
SHADOWS HAVE
ME. HAVE ALL OF US
I CARE NOT
ANYMORE

SHADOWS
ONLY EXIST
WHEN THERE IS
LIGHT TO FORM
THEM.

WALK
WITH ME,
NUKENN



YEAH, CAPTAIN, I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO SEE THIS, SOON AS I FOUND IT



APPRECIATE YOU THINKING OF ME, MICHAEL. NOW ..

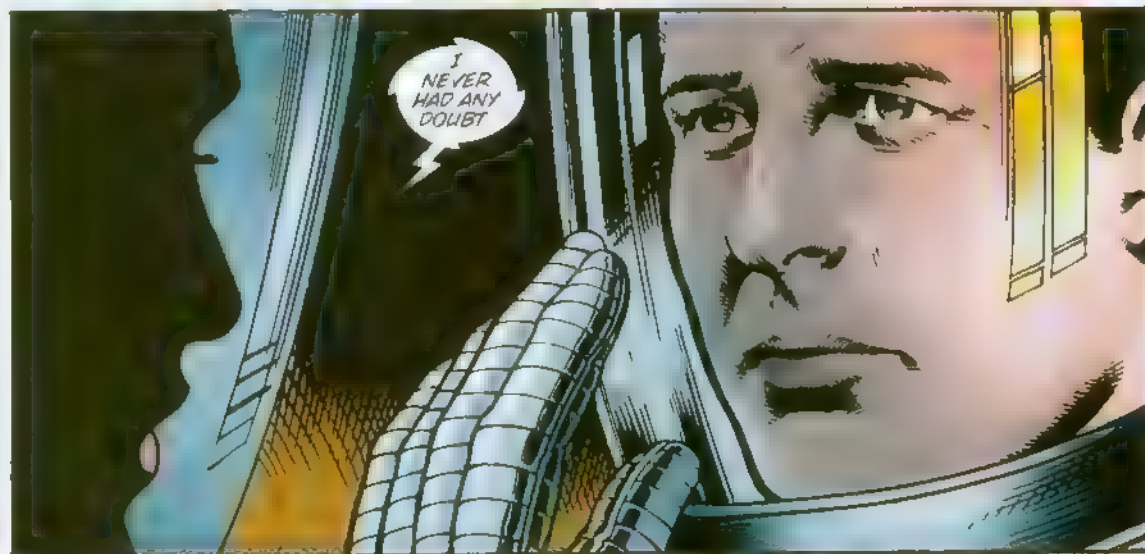
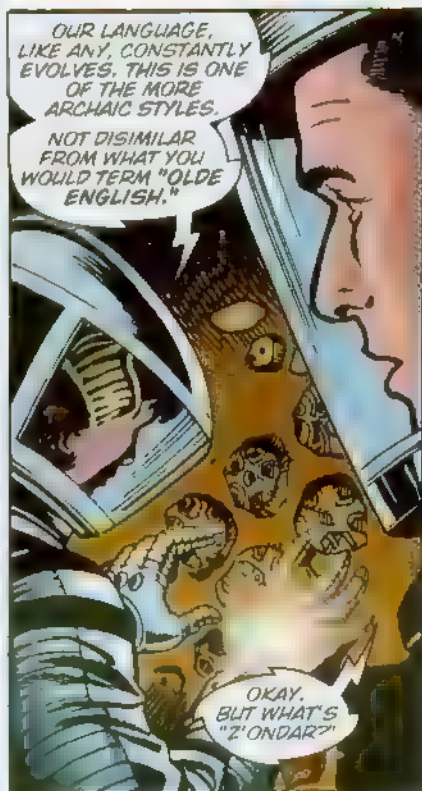
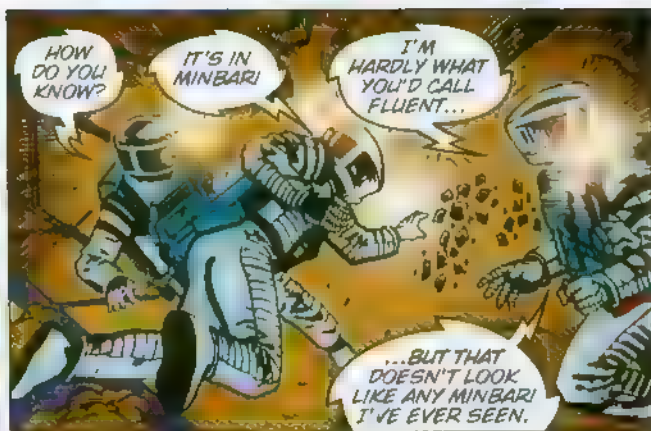
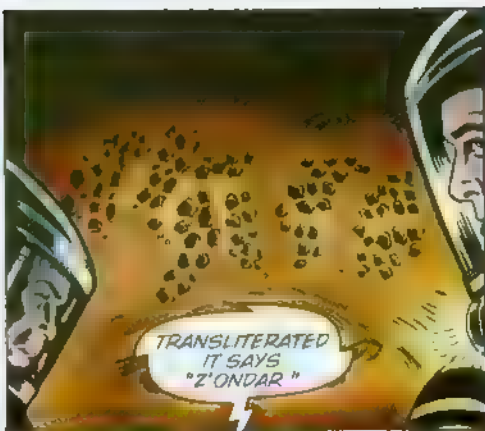
...ANY THOUGHTS AS TO WHAT IT IS?



WELL, CALL ME CRAZY...

...BUT IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE GRAFFITI.

GREAT. NOW WHAT'S IT SAY?





AND
THAT PLAN
WOULD
BE...?

NO
CLUE.

MY
HERO.



ACTUALLY,
I DO HAVE A
THOUGHT.
COME ON.

WHERE
TO?



"THE LAUNCH BAY
IF WE CAN FIND FOUR
SHIPS DOWN THERE
THAT CAN FUNCTION.

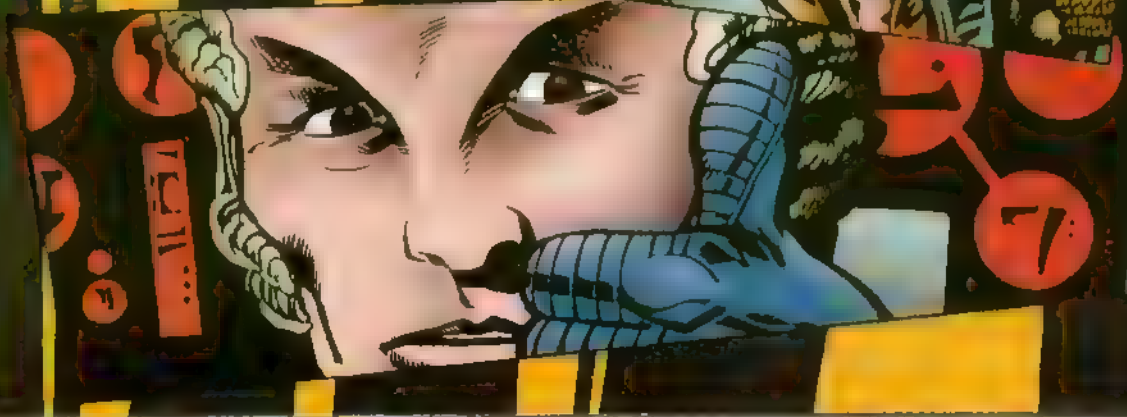
"... WE MIGHT JUST BE
ABLE TO LEAVE UNDER
OUR OWN STEAM."


"VALEN BROUGHT US HOPE
MORE THAN THAT... HE FORGED
ALLIANCES WITH OTHERS THAT
WE WOULD NEVER HAVE
THOUGHT POSSIBLE

"AND I, RASHOK, WHO ONCE
THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS
NOTHING LEFT FOR US SAVE
DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.


"...EAGERLY AWAITED THE OPPORTUNITY
TO DO BATTLE WITH THE CREATURES OF
SHADOW ONCE MORE. AND I KNEW THAT I
WOULD, INDEED, FOLLOW VALEN INTO
FIRE, INTO DARKNESS, INTO DEATH .

"...FOR HE WAS UNAFRAID TO LEAD US
INTO THE HEART OF THE BATTLE. IT WAS
AS IF HE KNEW THAT TRIUMPH WAS
INEVITABLE FROM HIS CONFIDENCE...
FLOWED OUR OWN







"ONE BATTLE SEEMED TO FLOW
INTO THE NEXT, LIKE ONE GREAT
TRIBUTARY INTO ANOTHER. MOVING.
SHIFTING, AS DO CURRENTS



"...BUT WHEREAS THE CURRENT
HAD FLOWED AGAINST US
BEFORE . THIS TIME



". THIS TIME WE BECAME
SWEEPED UP IN IT, HURTLING
AGAINST THE ENEMY AND AS
UNSTOPPABLE AS A TIDE



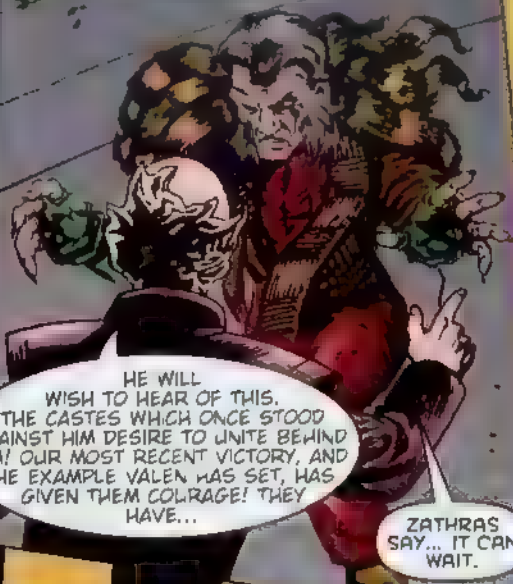
"WE WERE JOINED BY POWERFUL
ALLIES, FLOCKING TO OUR
BANNER, TO OUR LEADER... TO
VALEN THE MINBAR OF DESTINY

"WE FOUGHT FOR
THE SAKE OF
VALEN... IN THE
NAME OF VALEN.

"...AND IT WAS
GLORIOUS."



VALEN!
I BRING YOU
NEWS OF NEW
HONORS FOR
YOU!



TAKE WORD OF
ZATHRAS. IS NOT
GOOD TIME SPEAK
TO VALEN. NO.

HE WILL
WISH TO HEAR OF THIS.
THE CASTES WHICH ONCE STOOD
AGAINST HIM DESIRE TO UNITE BEHIND
HIM! OUR MOST RECENT VICTORY, AND
THE EXAMPLE VALEN HAS SET, HAS
GIVEN THEM COURAGE! THEY
HAVE...

ZATHRAS
SAY... IT CAN
WAIT.



I WILL
NOT HAVE
WORD OF THIS
GREAT DAY
DELAYED SO
MUCH AS
A --

ZATHRAS
SAY... IT CAN
WAIT!



IF VALEN
CAN LISTEN TO
ZATHRAS..!



...YOU
CAN LISTEN TO
ZATHRAS..!

"I, RASHOK OF THE FAMILY DOSH, A WARRIOR BORN, FROM
TEN GENERATIONS OF WARRIORS. . AND HE KNOCKED ME TO THE
GROUND AS IF I WERE A NOVICE OF THE RELIGIOUS CASTE

"I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IF VALEN, THE MINBARI NOT BORN OF MINBARI, COULD BE MORE THAN HE APPEARED

".. NATURALLY, HIS HELPMATE WOULD BE AS WELL."

COME, ZATHRAS MAKE YOU SNACK?

YOU SEE VALEN LATER, LATER IS BETTER THAN SOONER, IS WHAT ZATHRAS THINK.

VERY... WELL IF YOU THINK THAT IS.. VALEN'S WISH I WILL HONOR IT

GOOD. HONORING VALEN'S WISH IS VERY GOOD. ZATHRAS HONOR IT. YOU HONOR IT. ALL MINBARI HONOR IT. ZATHRAS SAY IS GOOD THING.


JUST AS, NOW, VALEN HONORS ALL DEAD. ALL MINBARI DEAD, VORLON DEAD, TAK'CHA DEAD, EVEN SHADOWS DEAD ZATHRAS SAY IS ALSO GOOD THING.

BUT IS ALSO.. SAD THING.

"HERE WAS VALEN, WHO HAD TORN DOWN WALLS BETWEEN ENEMIES, FORGED ALLIANCES THE STRONGEST INDIVIDUAL I HAD EVER KNOWN


"...WEEPING. WEEPING OVER THE LOSS OF THOSE WHO HAD FOLLOWED HIM. AND I

"I DID THE ONLY THING... I COULD THINK OF"




"WALK WITH ME, NUKENN." HE SAID AFTER I SHATTERED THE WINDOW. I DO NOT KNOW FOR HOW LONG WE WALKED.

"BUT OUR JOURNEY TOOK US TO MOUNT H'LEYA, THE PEAK FROM WHICH VALEN HAD DELIVERED HIS HOLY 'TIMES TO COME' SPEECH




"HE SPOKE OF THE CASTES UNITED... OF A NEW AGE FOR MINBARI. HE SPOKE OF THE DEFEAT OF THE SHADOWS AS IF IT WERE INEVITABLE..."

"...AND OF THEIR RETURN... AS LIKEWISE INEVITABLE."

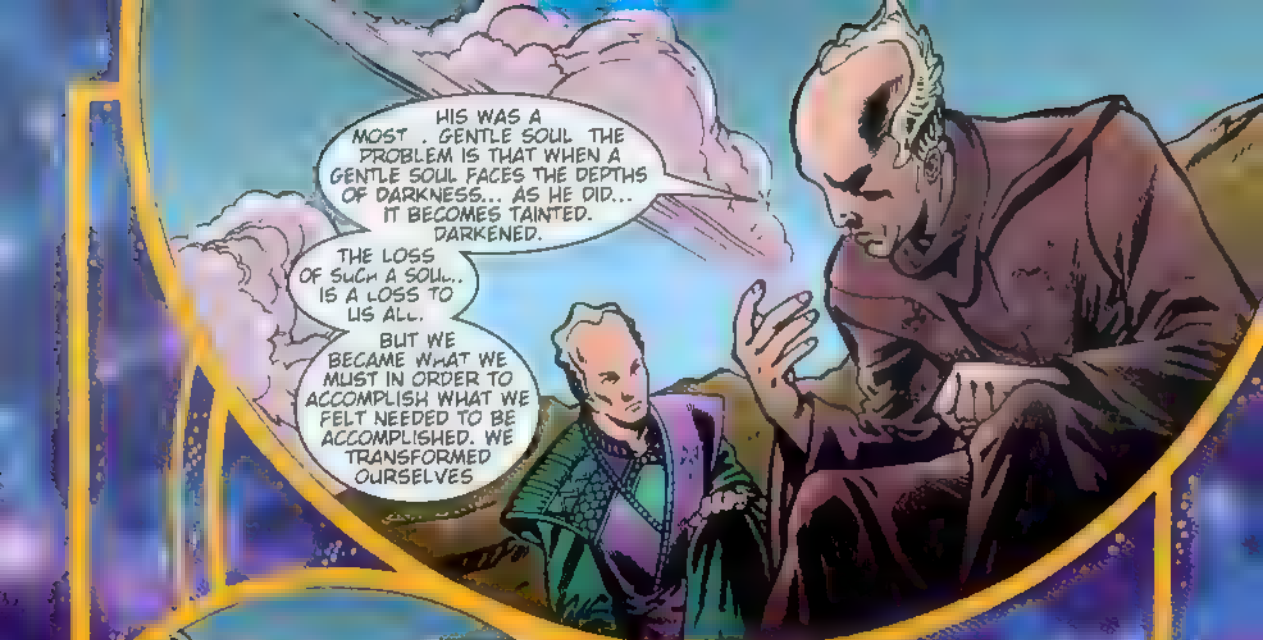


"IN SHORT, HE SPOKE OF EVERYTHING... EXCEPT THE SICKNESS THAT ATE MY SOUL. AND THEN."



YOUR SON... SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME


WHAT?




HIS WAS A MOST . GENTLE SOUL THE PROBLEM IS THAT WHEN A GENTLE SOUL FACES THE DEPTHS OF DARKNESS... AS HE DID... IT BECOMES TAINTED. DARKENED.

THE LOSS OF SUCH A SOUL... IS A LOSS TO US ALL.

BUT WE BECAME WHAT WE MUST IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT WE FELT NEEDED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. WE TRANSFORMED OURSELVES




I HAVE SOME .. SMALL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN SUCH MATTERS



YOUR SON SHOULD NOT HAVE COME TO ME... BECAUSE HE WAS SOMETHING DELICATE, AND INSTEAD HE BECAME HARD AND UNYIELDING. THAT IS A GREAT SADNESS.

BUT WE CANNOT... MUST NOT... ALLOW THE SADNESS TO WEIGH US DOWN. WE MUST NOT DOUBT. WE MUST NOT HESITATE. WE MUST NOT LOOK BACK.



BUT IF YOU MUST RELEASE YOUR ANGER... RELEASE IT UPON ME. I COULD HAVE TURNED YOUR SON AWAY, BUT DID NOT. I HONORED HIS COMMITMENT, AS I WOULD HAVE YOU DO AS HE WOULD HAVE HAD YOU DO.

IF THAT IS INSUFFICIENT, HOWEVER, THEN LASH OUT AT ME. NO MERE GLASS WINDOW THIS TIME TH'S WILL BE FAR MORE SATISFYING



WELL?

"I WANTED HIS
STRENGTH. WANTED
HIS CONVICTION."

"I ALSO FEARED
IT. FOR IN A WAY,
HE HAD SEEMED
DISTANT, INFLEXIBLE."

"HE DID NOT SEEM
TO HAVE... COMPASSION,
NOT REALLY.
UNDERSTANDING,
PERHAPS, BUT NOT
COMPASSION."

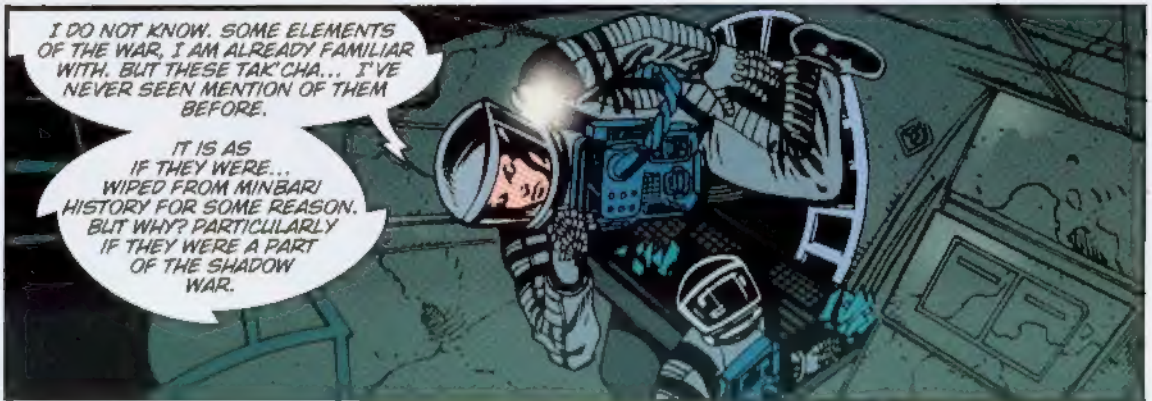
"HOW COULD HE
HAVE THOUGHT THAT
AN OFFER OF VIOLENCE
WOULD, IN ANY WAY,
HELP THE ACHE WITHIN
ME?"

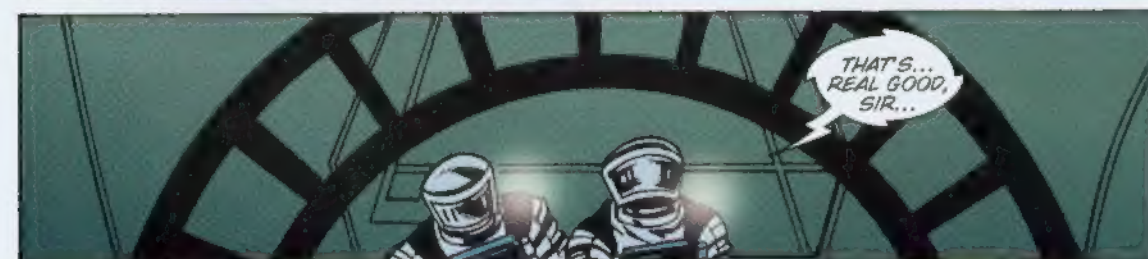
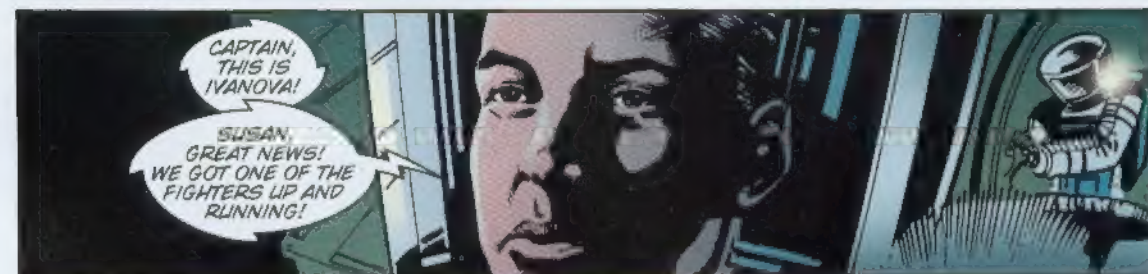
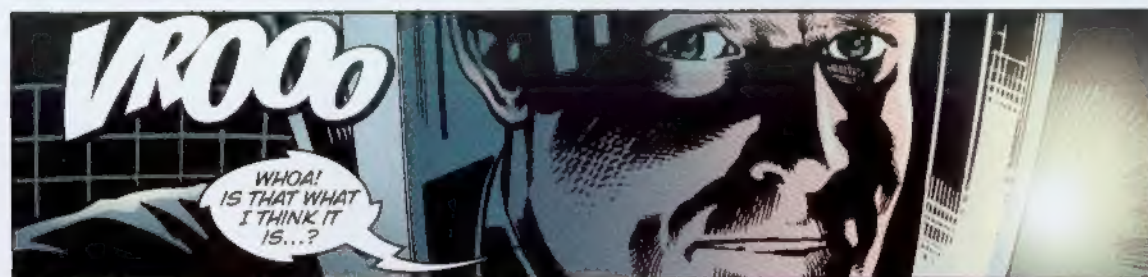
"AND
THEN..."

"I SAW IT."

"I NEVER
KNEW HOW HE
ACCOMPLISHED
IT."

"IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS... IT DID
NOT MATTER."







NOW IF
YOU CAN
FIX ANOTHER
TWO DOZEN OF SO
WITHIN THE NEXT
THIRTY SECONDS,
WE SHOULD BE
IN GREAT
SHAPE.